(d) whether Government are aware of a report of John Mccorwic, the editor of Earthscan, a London based environmental news service; and

(e) if so, what are the observations relating to India contained therein and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the India Meteorological Department there is no evidence of acid rain problem in the country as indicated by the data being recorded in various places;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the report, India is stated to be among the countries in which damage done by acid pollution could eventually exceed that experienced in North America and Europe. It is also stated that air pollution is severe in cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi.

In view of (c) above, no specific action is envisaged necessary measures are taken for prevention and control of air pollution.

Progress of National Science and Technical Information Network

1527. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 245 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1985 and state what are the details of the progress made so far to develop the National Science and Technical Information network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): Under the programmes, National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) two new information centres on textiles and chemicals have been established at Ahmedabad Textiles Industries Research Association (ATIRA) Ahmedabad and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune respectively. These are in addition to the existing five information centres on leather, food, machine tools, drugs and pharmaceuticals and crystallography. A series of 15 six-week courses and four one-week courses on application of computer to library and information processing have been promoted. Besides six seminars and workshops on information tool and technology, library automation and translation have been supported. A status report on computer-based bibliographic information processing in India and a feasibility report on on-line access to international databases have been completed.

Acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology

1528. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have obtained Hemlock Silicon Technology at a cost of Rs. 5 crores and a royalty of Rs. 9 crores;

(b) whether this technology is being developed by Mettur Chemicals; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology was being developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government has taken on record technical collaboration Agreement with M/s. Hemlock, USA for the manufacture of Polycrystalline Silicon. As per the Agreement, the know-how including Basic Design Engineering Documentation, improvements and training is